Alabama Baptist Historical Society

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

PROVIDENCE

Baptist Association

HELD WITH THE

WHISTLER BAPTIST CHURCH,

Mobile, Co., Ala. May 26 and 27, 1876.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

ELDER WM. SPENCE, MODERATOR, Mobile, Ala.

ELDER A. B. COUCH, CLERK, Mobile, Ala.

MOBILE:

SHIELDS & CO., BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS, EXCHANGE ALLEY.

1876.

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MINUTES.

WHISTLER, ALA., MAY 26th, 1876.

The Twenty-first Annual Session of the Providence Baptist Association convened with the Whistler Church, Whistler, Mobile county, Alabama, May 26th, 1876.

MORNING SESSION.

1. At 12 o'clock M. the Association was called to order by the Moderator of last session. The Clerk of last session being absent, Elder A. B. Couch, was elected temporary Clerk.

The session was opened by reading the 66 Psalm, singing the hymn,

"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,"

and prayer by Elder Wm. Spence, Moderator.

2. The Introductory Sermon was postponed to 8 o'clock P. M.

3. The letters from the churches were called for and read by Elder W. R. L. Smith and Deacon George A. Pearce, who were appointed by the Moderator, and messengers enrolled as follows:

BROAD STREET CHURCH.—D. W. McGaughey, Dudley Rayford, S. R. Olliphant, T. C. Carter, H. F. Acker, J. M. Cloud and Elder J. S. Paulin.

PALMETTO STREET CHURCH.—Elder W. R. L. Smith, Brethren E. W. Couch, R. H. Jones, John M. Cooper and Geo. A. Pearce.

ST. FRANCIS STREET CHURCH.—Elders J. O'B. Lowry, Wm. Spence, A. B. Couch and Brethren T. P. Miller, W. A. Alexander, D. Dabbs, Israel Putnam and J. H. Locke.

SHELL BANKS CHURCH.—Elder H. P. Hanson and Brethren Elisha Nelson jr., and John Morrison, jr.

BROOK CHICAON CHURCH.—Elder J. Nelson and Bro. R. Leavens.

WHISTLER CHURCH.—Elder B. R. Jackson and Brethren L. Crabtree, J. A. Easterling, W. J. Stringer, S. D. Philgaw and J. Crabtree.

ZION CHURCH.—Brethren W. A. Pollard, W. H. Rowell, J. Fletcher, W. N. Bolton, James Wooley and Elder T. E. Rowell.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

4. The Moderator announced that the next thing in order was the election of permanent officers, which was conducted by ballot, and which resulted in the election of Elder William Spence Moderator, and Elder A. B. Couch Clerk.

5. Invited visiting brethren to seats with us.

6. Called for petitionary letters. None presented.

7. The Moderator appointed a Committee on Preaching, which was composed of the Pastor and Deacons of Whistler Church and W. A. Pollard and Elisha Nelson, jr.

8. The Moderator announced the following committees:

On Sunday Schools.—Brethren Geo. A. Pearce, J. F. Cronk and J. Fletcher.

On Missions.—Elders W. R. L. Smith, Joseph Nelson and Brethren A. P. Bush and E. W. Couch.

On Queries and Requests.—Brethren W. A. Alexander, W. A. Pollard and Elisha Nelson, jr

On Periodicals.—Elders H. P. Hanson, B. R. Jackson and Brethren J. Wooley and John Pierce.

On State of Religion.—Elders A. B. Couch, B. R. Jackson and Brethren L. Crabtree and Tilman Malory.

On Finance.—Brethren A. P. Bush, J. H. Locke and W. A. Alexander.

On Temperance.—Brethren D. W. McGaughey, Geo. A. Pearce and Elder B. R. Jackson.

On motion of Elder B. R. Jackson adjourned to 3 o'clock. Prayer by Elder W. R. L. Smith.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 3 o'clock the Association was called to order by the Moderator. Sung the hymn,

"Awake our souls; away our fears."

Prayer by Elder J. Nelson.

9. Bro. Geo. A. Pearce, Treasurer, reported, which was, on motion, referred to the Finance Committee:

G. A. PEARCE, TREAS., IN ACCOUNT WITH PROVIDENCE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

1875.	DEBITS.			
Oct. 9th.—To balance from former Treasurer.....			$	1 67
Associational fund, St. Francis Street Church..	$20 00			
Broad " " ..	10 00			
Palmetto " " ..	5 00			
State Line Church.....	5 00			
Union "	4 00			
Whistler "	4 00			
Zion "	3 00			
Shell Banks "	2 55			
Fellowship "	2 50			
Palestine "	2 00			
Fair Hope "	1 50—		59	55
" 10th.—To cash collections at Broad St. Church at night..			11	00

1876.

May 25.—To collections to date from members Union Church,		5 00
	Whistler "	10 00
	Shell Banks "	15 00
	State Line "	25 75
	Zion "	27 95
	Palmetto St. "	47 50
	Broad St. "	60 00
	St. Francis St."	136 50
		$399 72

CREDITS.

1875.		
Oct. 17th.—By am't to Mrs. Hurly for Elder Joseph Mitchell, through Bro. Hudson, voucher No. 1	$10 00	
By am't to Elder B. R. Jackson, on acct. voucher No. 2	10 00	
Oct. 25th.—By am't to E. B. Lott on acct. Elder Jos. Mitchell, voucher No. 3	25 00	
Oct. 27th.—By am't to Elder A. B. Couch, on acct., voucher No. 4	40 00	
By am't to Elder B. R. Jackson, on acct., voucher No. 5	60 00	
Oct. 29th.—By am't to Shields & Co., on acct. printing Minutes, voucher No. 6	34 00	
Dec. 20th—By am't to Elder A. B. Couch, on acct., voucher No. 7	20 00	
By am't to Elder B. R. Jackson, on acct., voucher No. 8	30 00	
1876.		
Jan. 10th.—By am't to Shields & Co., on acct., voucher No. 9,	25 00	
Feb. 5th.—By am't to Elder B. R. Jackson, draft to Elder A. B. Couch, voucher No. 10	60 00	
May 22d.—By am't to A. B. Couch, order to M. G. Hudson, voucher No. 11	20 00	
By am't to Elder A. B. Couch, on acct., voucher No. 12	20 00	
May 24th.—By am't to Shields & Co., balance due on Minutes, voucher No. 13	8 00	
May 25th.—By am't to C. H. Dreisbach, on Elder B. R. Jackson's order for $100 00, voucher No. 14	28 50	
By am't to Elder A. B. Couch, an acct., voucher No. 15	19 00	—$399 50
Balance on hand		$ 22

E. O. E. GEO. A. PEARCE, Treas.

NOTE—*Amounts still due.*

To Elder Joseph Mitchell	$ 49 83
To Elder A. B. Couch, having deducted fifty dollars unconditionally from his salary there is yet due him	81 00
To Elder B. R. Jackson, having deducted one hundred dollars conditionally (provided the whole amount was paid in 30 days) and said condition not having been complied with, there is yet due him	233 75
Total amount due	$ 374 58
Unpaid subscriptions made at last Association amount to	$ 108 50

10. The Committee on Preaching reported as follows: Elder A. B. Couch to preach the Introductory Sermon to-night at 8 o'clock; Elder W. R. L. Smith to preach Saturday night at 8 o'clock. Sunday, Elder William Spence to preach the Missionary Sermon in this Church at 11 o'clock A. M., and Elder Jos. Nelson to preach at the Methodist Church at 11 o'clock A. M.; Elder H. P. Hanson to preach in this Church at 3 o'clock P. M., and at night Elder Lyon, of Marion, Ala., to preach in this Church, and Elder A. B. Couch to preach in the Methodist Church at 8 o'clock P. M.

On motion of Bro. Geo. A. Pearce the following was added to the foregoing report:

Resolved, That the Pastors of the Churches in the city of Mobile be requested to preach a Missionary Sermon, and take up a collection to aid the Association in paying her indebtedness, on Sunday night at 8 o'clock.

11. The Committee on Missions reported through Elder Smith, Chairman, which was adopted, and is as follows:

Your Committee on Missions would submit the following:

Reports from the foreign field are highly encouraging. The Lord has blessed the labors of our missionaries; and is increasingly enlisting the hearts of our people in the work.

Our home field, with the exception of an occasional sermon, is wholly unoccupied. The territory of the Association embraces Mobile and Baldwin counties. Three-fourths of Mobile county is missionary ground, and *all* of Baldwin. This shows seven-eighths of our territory destitute of Baptist preaching. The people want the Gospel. No man in the field. Preaching has been much blessed in this field heretofore. Shall the destitute have the Gospel? Your committee recommend the appointment of a missionary at once, provided the financial status of the body will warrant such action.

W. R. L. SMITH, Chairman.

12. The Committee on Sabbath Schools reported through Bro. Geo. A. Pearce, which was adopted, and is as follows:

Upon examination we find that only three of our churches give any Sunday School statistics at all, and we do not know whether the other churches are at work in this direction. We cannot to highly estimate the value of this branch of christian effort, and earnestly urge upon all our churches the duty of at once entering vigorously on this work. We recommend, in the event of a missionary being employed, that he be instructed to pay particular attention to this work, endeavoring to have a Sunday School in every church.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. A. PEARCE, Chairman.

13. On motion a committee was app inted to nominate brethren for the Executive Board for the co ming year.

Adjourned to 11 o'clock A. M. to-morrow Sung the hymn,

"There is a fountain filled with blo d."

Prayer by Elder Joseph Nelson.

INTRODUCTORY SERMON.

The Introductory Sermon was preached a 8 o'clock P. M., by Elder A. B. Couch. Text Romans 8:28: 'And we know that all things worked together for good, to them that love God; to them who are the called, according to his purpose."

SATURDAY, MAY 27th, 1876.

FORENOON SESSION.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Read the 22d Psalm. Sung, the hymn,

"How beauteous are their feet,
Who stand on Zion's hill."

And prayer by Elder H. P. Hanson.

The minutes of Friday was read and approved.

14. Delegates from the following Churches, who arrived here this morning, presented letters which were read and delegates enrolled, as follows:

UNION CHURCH.—Brethren H. A. Gaston, J. Fields, R. S. Dickens and D. A. Fort.

OAK GROVE CHURCH.—Brethren J. M. Chadick and J. W. Pendarvis.

BEAVER MEADOW CHURCH.—Brethren A. L. Blizard, H. Lott, W. Lewis A. Carrington and L. Leary.

FAIR HOPE CHURCH.—Elders C. Long and R. P. Irwin, and Bro. John Bosarge.

FELLOWSHIP CHURCH.—Brethren A. J. Rowell, Berry Byrd, Robert Byrd and T. J. Branon.

15. The Committee appointed to nominate an Executive Board reported the following names: C. E. Thames, W. H. Rowell, Thos. P. Miller, T. C. Carter, S. R. Olliphant, A. P. Bush and Geo. A. Pearce, which was adopted.

16. The Committee on Periodicals reported. Report adopted and is as follows:

Your Committee on Periodicals recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That this Association, recognizing the claims of the "Alabama Baptist" upon us as Baptists, and its high mission in unifying our people and disseminating our principles, recommend it to the support of Baptists generally. We also recommend "Kind Words."

Respectfully submitted,

H. P. HANSON, Chairman.

17. On motion, by Elder Lowry, a committee of four was appointed to report on Education, composed of Elders J. O'B. Lowry, W. R. L. Smith, and Brethren J. M. Jackson and A. J. Rowell.

18. The Committee on Queries and Requests reported. Referred back to the Committee and Bro. T. P. Miller added to it.

19. Committee on Temperance reported. Adopted, and is as follows:

As the views of this Association on the subject of Temperance have been iterated and reiterated, and are so well known, and as the New Testament enjoins upon all christians the practice of Temperance, we recommend that this Special Committee on Temperance be hereafter omitted from the list of committee appointments.

D. W. McGAUGHEY, Chairman.

Adjourned to 3 o'clock. Prayer by Elder Lowry.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 3 o'clock the Association was called to order by the Moderator. Sung the hymn,

"Come ye that love the Lord,"

and prayer by Elder Smith.

20. The Committee on the State of Religion reported. Adopted, and is as follows:

Your Committee on the State of Religion within the bounds of the Association report as follows:

From the letters sent up to the Association, and from other sources of information, we are constrained to say that the state of religion is not very cheering. No missionaries have been sent out to preach to the weak churches and destitute portions within our bounds during the last associational year, and very little the year before. We earnestly urge upon the churches in the Association who are blest with the means to take the subject under prayerful consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A. B. COUCH, Chairman.

21. The Committee on Queries and Requests reported as follows, which, after remarks by several brethren, was rejected. Ayes 8, nays 16:

Your Committee on Queries and Requests, appointed to consider the statement and queries proposed by the Fair Hope Church, beg leave to report:

1st. That a church granting letters in full fellowship to a number of its members who are dissatisfied with its course in certain matters of discipline are bound to respect such letters as valid, and of consequence to recognize a church regularly constituted on the basis of those letters.

2d. While in the abstract they have the right, it would be a breach of fellowship for churches in the same neighborhood to receive members without letters, knowing that it would be a serious grievance between the churches.

W. A. ALEXANDER, Chairman.

22. Invitation by Bro. T. P. Miller, in behalf of St. Francis Street Church, for the next session of the Association was tendered and accepted.

23. The Committee on Education reported. Adopted, and is as follows:

Realizing the importance of a liberal christian education, your committee beg leave to report that the claims of Howard College and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary deserve special consideration in this centennial year.

These institutions are co-laborers in our educational work, and should be enriched by the memorial gifts of grateful Baptists throughout the State.

We recommend that Brethren M. G. Hudson, A. C. Carrington, L. Crabtree, G. A. Pearce, R. F. Manly, H. P. Hanson, John Fields and W. H. Rowell be appointed to press the claims of Howard College in their respective congregations, to report at the next meeting of this Association.

J. O'B. LOWRY, Chairman.

24. The Committee on Finance reported. Adopted, and is as follows:

Your Committee on Finance beg leave to report, that they have examined the Treasurer's report and find it correct. Associational fund sent up by the churches $44 00. Respectfully,

A. P. BUSH, Chairman.

25. On motion, appointed a committee to recommend brethren to preach the annual sermons at the next session of the Association, consisting of Brethren T. P. Miller, W. A. Alexander and James Wooley, who retired and within a few minutes returned and made the following report: We nominate Elder W. R. L. Smith to preach the Introductory Sermon, Elder B. R. Jackson, alternate; Elder A. B. Couch to preach the Missionary Sermon, Elder H. P. Hanson, alternate. Which was adopted.

26. On motion of Elder H. P. Hanson, the thanks of the Association were tendered to the brethren and friends of Whistler for the kind manner in which they have entertained the Association.

27. On motion of Elder A. B. Couch, adjourned to meet with St. Francis Street Church, city of Mobile, on Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in May, 1877.

Remarks by the Moderator. Sung the hymn,

"Children of the heavenly king,"

and extended the parting hand.

The session was very harmonious and pleasant.

WILLIAM SPENCE, Moderator.

A. B. COUCH, Clerk.

SABBATH EXERCISES.

SABBATH, MAY 28th, 1876.

According to appointment Elder William Spence preached the Missionary Sermon at 11 o'clock A. M. Text: Acts 10, 42, "And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is He which was ordained of God to be the judge of quick and dead."

At 3 P. M. Elder H. P. Hanson preached.

At night Elder Lyons, of Marion, Ala., preached at the Baptist Church, and Elder A. B. Couch at the Methodist Church.

The congregation at both churches was large and attentive.

TABLE OF STATISTICS.

CHURCHES.	When Constit'd.	LOCATION.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	CLERK'S P. O.	SABBATH WORSHIP.	Ad'tns			Diminutions.				
							Baptisms.	Letter.	Restored.	Letter.	Excl's'ns.	Deaths.	Erasures.	Total.
Bay Minette	1870	Baldwin Co., Ala.	Not represented.											
Bethel (Colored)	1871	Mobile Co., Ala.	T. E. Rowell	A. E. Carrington	Beaver Meadow, Ala	No Stated	8		7	2	3	2		180
Bread Street	1866	City of Mobile	J. S. Paulin	J. F. Crank	Mobile, Ala	Every								46
Bush's Station	1867	Baldwin Co., Ala.	H. P. Hanson	J. W. Stewart	Mobile, Ala	3d								
Bucatunna		Mobile Co., Ala.	Not represented.											
Chickasaw	1870	Mobile Co., Ala.	Wm. Williams	Reece Bird	Chunchula, Ala.	4th					1	1		32
Dog River	1870	Mobile Co., Ala.	Chas. Long	W. T. Smith	St. Elmo, Ala.						1			17
Fig Hope	1870	Mobile Co., Ala.	Chas. Long	B. N. Slater	St. Elmo, Ala.		1				2			20
Gun Creek		Mobile Co., Ala.												
Fairmount		Jackson Co., Miss.	Not represented											
Palmetto St	1865	City of Mobile	W. R. L. Smith	H. E. Anderson	Mobile, Ala.	Every		5		6	2			94
St. Wynatte St.	1847	City of Mobile	J. O'B. Lewis	R. G. T. Shepherd	Mobile, Ala.	Every	15	12		1		1		363
Salem	1872	Waynesboro', Miss	Not represented.											51
Sand Banks	1868	Baldwin Co., Ala.	H. P. Hanson	Samuel Nelson	Mobile, Ala.									
Spring Hill	1870	Baldwin Co., Ala.	Not represented.											
Tabernacle	1867	Jackson Co., Miss.	Not represented.											
Union	1849	Mobile Co., Ala.	B. R. Jackson	Noel Turner	Mobile, Ala.			1		1	3			50
Washington		Green Co., Miss.	Not represented.							2	5	2	7	63
Whistler	1870	Mobile Co., Ala.		L. Crabtree	Whistler, Ala.	2d & 4th			2	2				112
Zion	1846	Mobile Co., Ala.	Wm. Spence	W. H. Rowell	Mobile, Ala.	2d & 4th								
				TOTAL			24	20	9	14	17	8	7	1018

SABBATH SCHOOL AND FINANCIAL.

SABBATH SCHOOL.									FINANCIAL.								
CHURCHES.	SUPERINTENDENTS.	POST OFFICES	Officers and Teachers.	Scholars.	Av. attendance.	Conversions.	Vols. in Library.	Papers taken.	Pastor's Salary.	Associational Fund	Domestic Mis'ns.	Foreign Missions	Sabbath School.	State Sabbath School Board.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
Day Mission										1 00						1 00
Beaver Meadow	J. M. Jackson	Beaver Meadow.	20	70												
Broad Street	M. G. Hudson	Mobile, Ala.	9	105	74			120	1,200	10 00	121 00	35 50	100 00			1466 50
Brook Cedron										2 00						2 00
Bellowship										1 00						1 00
Fair Hope										2 00						2 00
Oak Grove										1 00						1 00
Palestine			16	144	83			120	$ 900	5 00	63 80	20 00	35 64	15 25		1059 69
Palmetto Street	Geo. A. Pearce	Mobile, Ala.	31	225	145	10		305	2,400	10 00	117 50	85 00			1008 23	3620 73
St. Francis Street	E. A. Shaffer	Mobile, Ala.								2 00						2 00
Salem																
Shell Banks																
Spring Hill																
Tide Water									75	2 00						77 00
Union																
Washington										3 00						3 00
Whistler	L. Crabtree	Whistler, Ala.								5 00						5 00
Zion																
TOTAL			76	544	302	10		545	$4,575	44 00	302 30	140 50	195 64	15 25	1008 23	6281 01

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES.

Batcheler, W. L.	Mobile, Alabama.
Couch, A. B.	Mobile, Alabama.
Curry, James H.	Greenville, South Ca.
Coleman, T. N.	Mobile, Alabama.
Hanson, H. P.	Mobile, Alabama.
Irvin, R. P.	Mobile, Alabama.
Jackson, B. R.	Mobile, Alabama.
Jaeger, Abraham	Greenville, South Ca.
Lowry, J. O'B.	Mobile, Alabama.
Long, Charles	Mobile, Alabama.
Morrow, W. C.	Mobile, Alabama.
Newell, J. L.	Mobile, Alabama.
Nelson, Joseph	Mobile, Alabama.
Roberts, E. L.	Mobile, Alabama.
Rowell, T. E.	Mobile, Alabama.
Smith, W. R. L.	Greenville, South Ca.
Spence, Wm	Mobile, Alabama.

LICENSED PREACHERS.

Ebeltoft, Theo. B.	Greenville, South Ca.
Gray, B. D.	Waynesboro, Miss.
Hutchinson, E. G.	Whistler, Ala.
Thames, T. B.	Greenville, South Ca.

MISSIONARY BOARD.

THOS. P. MILLER, President, Mobile, Ala.
GEO. A. PEARCE, Secretary and Treasury, Mobile, Ala.
C. E. Thames, W. A. Alexander, D. P. Bestor, W. H. Rowell, T. C. Carter.

☞ Churches are particularly requested to report the names and postoffices of ordained ministers and licensed preachers included in their membership rolls, with all changes affecting them.

The special attention of the churches is invited to all errors or deficiencies apparent in their respective statistics.

☞ The Association will meet with the Whistler Church on Friday before the fourth Sunday in May, 1876.